

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 33, and 38-40, amend claims 31, 32, 34, 36 and 37, and add new claims 41-44.

31. (Currently Amended) A data system comprising:
 a data storage card having a data storage medium;
 a housing comprising a panel;
 an opening formed in the panel sized for passage of the card therethrough along a first path substantially parallel to the axis of the card;
 a card support for receiving said card and which is movable between a load/unload position and a read/write position wherein the load/unload positioned position is along said first path and said read/write position is located on a second path substantially perpendicular to said first path;
 a card handler mechanism comprising at least one pair of driving members for engaging and moving the card between the opening and the card support;
 a data head; and
 means for moving ~~at least one of the data head during reading and writing and the card support carrying the card relative to one another~~, whereby the data head can read data from and/or write data to the data storage medium when the card support is at the read/write position.

32. (Currently Amended) The data system according to claim 31 wherein the ~~moving~~ means causes the data head to move along substantially straight parallel tracks along the data storage medium.

33. (Cancelled)

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34. (Currently Amended) A data unit, ~~for use with a~~ ✓
~~substrate having first and second edges and a data surface~~
~~region therebetween, comprising:~~

a base;

a substrate support, configured to support a substrate,
mounted to the base;

a data head drive mounted to the base, the data head drive
comprising a data head reciprocally moveable along a ~~second~~
linear path;

~~a step driver controllably moving at least one of the data~~
~~head drive and the substrate support relative to one another~~
~~along a first path and said second path;~~

first and second data head support surfaces positioned at
opposite ends of a ~~second~~ the linear path and adjacent to said
substrate support, ~~said first and second paths being transverse~~
~~to one another; and~~

said data head ~~comprising a data head surface which~~
~~contacts~~ moving over said first and second data head support
surfaces as said data head moves along the opposite ends of said
~~second~~ linear path.

35. (Cancelled)

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36. (Currently Amended) A method for reading and/or writing
data ~~from/to a plurality of parallel data tracks on a substrate~~
comprising:

~~positioning a data head at a first position on the~~
~~substrate;~~

moving the data head along a first data track ~~on the~~ of a
substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the
first data track, the substrate being part of a rectangular data
card;

repositioning the data head to a second position on the substrate spaced-apart from the first data track; and

moving the data head along a second data track ~~on~~ of the substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the second data track,

~~wherein the moving steps are carried out in a manner that the first and second data tracks are parallel, substantially curved, constant-radius data tracks.~~

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27. (Currently Amended) A method for reading and/or writing data ~~from/to a plurality of parallel data tracks on a substrate~~ comprising:

~~moving said substrate on a substrate support to a location accessible by a data head;~~

~~positioning a data head at a first position on the substrate;~~

moving ~~the~~ a data head along a magnetic first data track ~~on~~ the of a substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the first data track, the substrate being part of a rectangular data card;

~~repositioning the data head to a second position on the substrate spaced apart from the first data track, wherein the repositioning step is carried out by moving the data head in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first data tracks~~
track;

moving the data head along a magnetic second data track ~~on~~ of the substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the second data track, wherein the first and second data tracks are parallel substantially straight data tracks.

38-40. (Cancelled)

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~~41~~. (New) A data communication method comprising:

inserting a rectangular data card into a data unit, wherein the data unit includes a data head operable to communicate signals with a magnetic material of the data card; and

communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving data head in a linear manner along a first data track, and subsequently communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a second data track, wherein the first and second data tracks are substantially-straight parallel data tracks.

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~~42~~. (New) The method of claim ⁶~~41~~, wherein between the moving of the data head along the first and second data tracks, the data card is repositioned.

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~~43~~. (New) The method of claim ⁶~~41~~, wherein the magnetic material is on an exterior surface of the data card.

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~~44~~. (New) The method of claim ⁶~~41~~, wherein the data head contacts the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.

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~~45~~. (New) The method of claim ⁶~~41~~, wherein the data head is a flying head that does not contact the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.